

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 18, 2010 AT 9:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS WERE HAD, VIZ.

Present: Eugene Lamb, Chair, District 1
Doug Croley, Vice-Chair, District 2
Gene Morgan, District 3
Sherrie Taylor, District 5
Nicholas Thomas, Clerk
Deborah Minnis, County Attorney
Johnny Williams, County Administrator

Absent: District 4 - vacant due to resignation of former Commissioner Brenda Holt

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He called for a moment of silent prayer then led in pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Amendments and Approval of the Agenda

There were no amendments mad to the agenda.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

Awards, Presentations and Appearances

1. Weatherization Program Update – Capital Area Community Action Agency

Dorothy Inman-Johnson:

Good morning. I was here earlier to talk to you about the Weatherization Program and the Weatherization American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars. I am pleased to give you an update today. Of the 222 homes that we are capable of doing out of the weatherization ARRA dollars, since November when we actually received the money from DCA, we have completed 61. This is for a 2 ½ year period – those dollars are available. We have estimated that we can do 222 out of your \$1.5 million allocation if all of the homes are done at the maximum amount per unit. I am also pleased to announce to you that Capital Area Community Action Agency is now the provider agency responsible for overseeing the multifamily weatherization projects in the counties that we serve. We don't actually receipt the money that was held back from each county. The way the State decided to do it was that they held back a certain percentage of each county's allocation at the very beginning of these projects to facilitate doing multifamily units with weatherization. That pool has come up to about \$35 million statewide. I had asked if there were no multi family units or not at the rate of Central or South Florida available in North Florida or the Panhandle, would they reallocate those collars back for single family unit in those counties.

At first, the answer was, “yes.” Now, the answer is, “no.” If we don’t have multifamily units coming forward from these counties, that money will go to whatever the counties are that have the multi family units for those \$35 million. So, we have already started accepting interest letters from projects that want to have it done. I am not sure if we have one coming from Gadsden County yet. If there are multifamily units that fit HUD requirements and at least 60% of the people living in those units are below the 200% of the poverty guideline, then they would be eligible. It would also have to be a project that has at least 5 units in it and cannot exceed five floors. I don’t think that is going to be a problem much here in the panhandle area. I wanted to make you aware of that.

Our next RFPs for contractors for all of our projects will be about mid-June. Start watching for notices in your local paper and posted notices in the Building Inspection units of each county for when we are advertising those RFPs. We will be accepting new applications and proposals from contractors to do this work in those counties. Basically, with that, that is a brief update. If you want more information, I can provide it to you. I gave each of you a folder with the brochure, the updated brochure for the weatherization project that shows exactly the income level of people who are eligible to have their homes weatherized. The purpose for the weatherization project is not only to make the houses energy efficient, lower utility costs and reduce the burden on local government to create more generation for energy, but also to create jobs in the community.

I am pleased to announce that Capital Area was recognized last week at the Florida Association for Community Action Annual Conference as the Community Action agency in the state which has created the most jobs or retained the most jobs in the state since this program started last fall.

Thank you.

Lamb:

We might have some questions. Commissioners, do you have any questions that you would like to ask Ms. Johnson.

Taylor:

I have some questions. First of all, thank you for coming. I had requested that you stop by and give us an update and I appreciate the staff for following up on that.

You mentioned a couple of things that I just wanted to follow up on. I have been inquiries as to where folk are on your list of the 222. I don’t know if there is a designated area or a phone number where they can call to find out where they are and what time frame will they be receiving services.

Johnson:

That number is on the back of the brochure. We do have a procedure. If that procedure isn’t being followed, I would appreciate those clients calling me because I can make sure to check the list to find out when their applications were received, if we are on our time schedule in terms of notifying them. However, there are some steps that determine who gets served first and it is in the brochure where it lays out the priorities. The federal government sets that up. If you are 60 years or older, you get a certain number of points. If you are disabled, you get a certain number

of points. If you have a high energy burden, you get a certain number of points and if you are a family with children 12 and under, you get a certain number of points. We have to follow that point system in terms of the applications, but nobody should have had to wait for months. So, if you have people calling you asking, I would appreciate it you would refer them to me and the numbers are on the information that I gave you – the agency brochure and the weatherization brochure.

Taylor:

O.K. Let me just real quick – Is there a list of homes?

Johnson:

Yes, there is a list.

Taylor:

O.K. That is the first question.

Is that list posted or available locally or through your office?

Johnson:

The list is in the office.

Taylor:

Which office?

Johnson:

In our main office where the weatherization program is operated.

Taylor:

O.K. And, of the two – I heard your language when you used, “capable of doing 222 homes.” Are you saying that you have that many applications or that much money?

Johnson:

We have, with the amount of money we received from the state and the federal government, if we divided that by the total amount that can be spent per house, that is the number of houses that we would be able to do in the 2 ½ years.

Taylor:

So, you don't have that number of applications, but just that number of availability for homes to be done.

Johnson:

Yes.

Taylor:

And you are spending an average of how much on each home? Is it around \$5,000 per house?

Johnson:

I can't tell you that because I don't do the program. If I had known these were the specific kinds of questions you would need answered, I could provide that to you. I can certainly provide that to you after this meeting.

Taylor:

O.K. Then, jobs. Were you able to differentiate, or can you at this time, and again, I understand that you are being put on the spot, but are you able at this time to tell how many jobs actually came into this county through this program? That is very important because of the economy over here and the fact that there are people who need to go to work. So, are you able to determine how many actually went to work?

Johnson:

I can't tell you the actual amount, but I can tell you that a sizable number of Gadsden County residents who were enrolled in our family self sufficiency program went through the program that we have with Workforce Plus and TCC to get that weatherization installer credential and have been placed throughout OJT program with weatherization providers. I can't give you the exact number. Had I been provided the specific data that you wanted at this meeting, I would have had those answers for you.

Taylor:

Well, I would like for you to relate that to the office so I can follow up on some of the inquiries as to the jobs that were promised. Then, I will be able to be a little bit more specific because I don't know the numbers either.

Johnson:

I will be happy to provide you, your office, with those numbers.

Taylor:

Thank you.

You wouldn't know the number of contractors that was actually selected from this county either at this time, or would you?

Johnson:

No.

Taylor:

I guess those things are important because these are the people that I see and talk to everyday. They kind of wanted to know where we are.

You've done 61 houses, or 61 homes to date – that is what you also said. It is a 2 ½ year program. So, I will assume, since you are getting ready to advertise an RFP that one year has gone – of the program.

Johnson:

One year has gone since DCA received the money. We received the money in November.

Taylor:

So, would that mean that we have a year and a half left on the contract?

Johnson:

We have until early 2012.

Taylor:

O.K. Thank you. That is it. Thank you.

Lamb:

Are there any other questions from commissioners?

Croley:

May I ask for just one clarification? You said 61 – Good morning, Ms. Inman. It is always good to see you.

Johnson:

Good morning.

Croley:

You said 61 houses had been completed to date. Is that in this county?

Johnson:

No.

Croley:

That is total. Do you know how many in this county? She may have asked that, but I missed the response.

Johnson:

I will provide you the breakdown when I answer the other questions. I really wish when if – all I was told is that you wanted a general update on weatherization. I was not given any information on specific data you wanted or I would have prepared a report with that data in it for Gadsden County. In future updates, now that I know the specificity of what you want, I will come prepared with the breakdown of all of those numbers. I will promise that I will provide that to you in writing immediately this week following this meeting.

Croley:

Thank you.

Lamb:

Thank you very much Ms. Johnson for coming by and giving us this update.

Johnson:

Thank you.

**2. Resolution 2010-028 Honoring Mary Jo Hargrove – Library Commission
Resolution 2010-029 Honoring Rowena Middlebrooks – Library Commission**

Dr. Carolyn Poole, Library Director and Commissioner Morgan introduced Ms. Mary Jo Hargrove and Ms. Rowena Middlebrooks and recognized them for the many years of service to the Library Commission.

3. Hospital Update

Mike Glazer, Deputy County Attorney addressed the board.

Glazer:

Good morning Commissioners. I do want to update you briefly on a few things. There are two primary surveys that a hospital has to pass – that this hospital has to pass in order to open. I am extremely pleased to tell you that yesterday our hospital passed the Office of Plans and Construction Survey by the Agency of Healthcare Administration. That is particularly noteworthy for a couple of reasons.

Of the two surveys, this is the one that the county had the biggest role in. Second, I can tell you that it would not, could not, did not happen without Clyde Collins. Clyde has been remarkable. He has been dogged in his determination to get this done. There are a whole lot of people that participated in it, but nobody more important than Clyde. He has learned an awful lot about hospital codes, a lot more than I am sure that he ever thought he would. This is really a testament to his hard work.

The second survey is the licensure survey. While we will have a role in that, that is really up to the folks at Capital Regional Medical Center. That survey is scheduled for May 27th and 28th. In fact, there is some pre-survey work that is already going on with regard to making sure that all the policies and procedures and so forth are in place so that the hospital will be ready to open.

There are several important dates here. I did bring some pictures this morning and I am going to run through them real quickly in just a minute for you. May 27th and 28th is that licensure survey. What is important about that is if they pass, then the state can actually issue the license. That doesn't mean that the doors will open. But, they can issue the license which is critical because we have to have a license by June 21. I don't want there to be any misconceptions. The hospital doesn't have to be open by June 21, it has to have a license by June 21. With any luck, it will have a license three weeks ahead of that June 21 date.

The second is the grand opening ceremony. We don't have final, final, but it is looking like that will probably be June 8th. There will be much more information to come on that, but the hope is that it will be June 8th out at the hospital. The folks at Capital Regional are also organizing that. They've got a public relations firm that they have brought in to not only help with the ceremony, but also to help get the word out.

The date that the doors will actually open has not yet been set. The reason that they don't want to announce that date yet is they want to get through all these surveys. If there is any sort of a problem on the 27th and 28th, there will still be time to fix it. So, they haven't actually set that date yet, but we are hopeful that it is going to be in that first couple of weeks in June that the doors will actually open up.

They have started hiring people. I don't have any precise numbers yet, but I know that they have actually hired some folks through that job fair the other day. They are in training now.

Yesterday, when we were out there, we had the last couple of surveys. There has actually been a series of AHCA surveys over the last few weeks. I took a few pictures that I wanted to run through with you real quick.

This is the new sign that is out on the highway there.

This is the front of the building. I think that looks really nice. You can see we have preserved the Gadsden Memorial part of this and merged the two names – Capital Regional Medical Center and Gadsden Memorial .

This is the emergency department entrance. As you are facing the hospital, it is on the left side of the building.

This is the public entrance for the emergency department.

This is the ambulance entrance. Understand that this is still a construction site, so that will get cleaned up a little bit more. But, that is where the ambulances will pull up. This awning here is something that has been added. It was always there, but it has been extended as part of some of the last work that we have done here to provide a little bit more protection for the ambulances as they back up.

Just to the left of this is this shower area. This is for hazardous material – an area for haz mat preparations and for dealing with those kinds of situations and actually, inside the building, there is additional work areas for hazardous materials – dealing with hazardous material events. So, that is a nice little feature. You often times see these showers on the outside. Obviously, if somebody comes in who has been covered with some sort of hazardous materials, you don't want to bring that into the building. So, that work gets done right there on the outside.

A couple snapshots of the pharmacy. This is the area that we have done some additional renovation on. There is some very nice case work in there. There is actually several different rooms. Just a couple of shots from different angles. This is a secure area and it is locked and I actually took these pictures through the glass window. The pharmacist will be behind there. This is actually a piece of equipment that is used for the preparation of intravenous solutions that will be done on site. They will be able to prepare some medicines as some are time sensitive and have to be prepared within a certain time period before they are administered to the patient. That type work can be done in this hospital.

This is the laboratory. It was locked yesterday and I didn't bother going to look for a key. I am not sure what all is in those boxes. But, they have a very nice laboratory out there that is being set up to do what is called (inaudible) lab where they will do the initial tests that have to be done on a quick basis.

This is one of the nursing stations. The big nursing station where you have the monitors up there. This light is actually a portable light. It just happened to be sitting there because the AHCA surveyor literally came in and took this apart to make sure it was in proper order. There are a couple of portable lights that are out there.

This is one of the treatment rooms. This is a treatment room like you would find in any hospital in any city. This is a modern first class up to date treatment area in the emergency department. This is just another angle in that same room.

This is another treatment room. Is this the trauma room? It may not be. But, a bed can actually be put here. That is the trauma room. This is a very big room. One of the things about this hospital is that it's got some really good size spaces. You can see here again that we've got some very modern lights and such there.

This is the X-Ray room. Again, it is still kind of a construction zone. But, this will be cleaned up. As you can see, it is very nice, very modern X-Ray equipment that has been brought into this hospital.

This is the CT Scanner. There are a lot of places that don't have these things. This is a great thing for this hospital to have. Just another angle for it. This is the control panel. Again, this is a new modern hospital that the folks in Gadsden County are going to have in very short order. This is a portable X-Ray machine that they will have which is important in an emergency department so they will be able to take X-Rays wherever they need to.

This is just some of the crowd that was out there working on the survey. There were even more people out there than that.

This is the operating room. This won't be used initially. There are surgeons all over this country that would crawl all over each other to have an operating room as big as this one. Once they get this in operation, this is going to get a lot of good use. This is the recovery area. You've got room for four beds in the recovery area. This is part of the operating room suite. That is the sink where they do the wash up.

They had to set up some of the patient rooms. Of course, as you know, they are not going to operate inpatient beds when the hospital first opens. But, in order to pass the surveys, we have fully equipped a couple of the rooms because that is part of the requirements. You can see that this is a very nice patient room, one that you would be happy to find in any hospital anywhere in the country. Just another angle here.

The good news is that these beds were already here. You did not spend a penny on those beds. They are brand new. That is one of the things that was left behind. It may be the only good thing

that I can say about Ashford that they left behind for us.

I took a shot of one of the bathrooms. You can see that it is handicapped accessibility. You can roll a chair right into these showers. It is very well thought out design.

This is a very nice kitchen. It is not a full kitchen, it is what they call a warming kitchen. You are going to be able to do really nice things in there.

I took a couple of shots of some of the mechanical equipment mostly to show you that this isn't just – they have really done a nice job in setting this up as a new functional hospital. This is not just a "Paint up, fix up some of the old stuff." This is a lot of new equipment in here that has been replaced and is going to serve this building well for many years to come. This is another shot. Clyde has it set up so that you could eat off these floors. Here again is just some additional equipment.

Then, a couple of shots of just some areas (I know it is a little bit dark) where there is room to grow. This is what we call "shelled in space." You see one, two, three, four or five – this is actually the area where you could have five new patient rooms. The space is there. All you have to do is finish it out. This space wasn't created, it was always there, but it is part of what has been leased in the hope that it will grow into it. Then, there is even more. This is not even part of the space that has been leased. With the light, you can't really see it, but you've got a long corridor back here and another long corridor back here. This is some of the area that we are going to be looking at for other services that we may be able to bring in. Hopefully, once we get the doors open and can kind of catch our breath and start thinking about how best to use the remaining parts of this building. This is some of the space and by the way, these are some of the additional beds that were left behind.

So, that is kind of a quick run through of what it is looking like as we sit here today. There will be a lot more. There are all sorts of supplies and other equipment that are out there being installed. A lot of work still to be done, but we have made tremendous progress. There are a million different people who have been involved with this. There are a lot of folks to thank. We are making very good progress out there. The folks at HCA are out there every day now. They are excited and looking forward to this. We are in the home stretch now. We are just going to keep our fingers crossed and keep working hard.

I want to leave you with one last thought before I take any questions. I spent two days in Washington last week at a seminar on the federal healthcare bill that has been passed. It is a massive incredibly complicated piece of legislation. One of the main themes that came out of that seminar was that the hospitals of the future, in order to survive, are going to have to look at things like consolidation. They are going to be looking at things that we call "integrated delivery systems" where hospitals work together with physicians who are the post acute care providers. The way this new healthcare plan is evolving, the small stand alones are going to really struggle. I know that wasn't part of anybody's thought processes as we through this, but by having this partnership with Capital Regional, under the new healthcare plan, we are going to have a much better chance of making a go of this. Call it coincidence, call it fate – whatever you want to call it, but as we move into this new era under this new healthcare plan which will take 4 – 5 years to

evolve, we've got a model here that has a much better chance for success than we might have had otherwise.

Mr. Chairman, that is my report. I don't know if you have anything else to add. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Lamb:

Commissioners, do you have questions that you want to direct to Mr. Glazer or any comments that you would like to make.

Commissioner Croley?

Croley:

Yes. Mr. Glazer, I appreciate that report and Mr. McMillan.

I visited the hospital yesterday morning. Mr. Collins gave me a tour. I was very impressed with all that has been done. You know, I think we would be remise if we didn't allow you the opportunity to make a comment about the fit of the facility for this community. I think everyone is well aware that we have some on one side that clamor "Oh! This is too small." We have another set that clamor, "Oh, this is too large." It is almost like the story of Goldielocks and the three bears. What is it that is just right?

From what I have seen, given the task in the very difficult time that we had and the complexity of the problem with not having a medical facility, it does appear that we are on the right path. But, I do think that it is appropriate, if you could, just make some comment about what we are doing with this facility and what size it is.

Glazer:

Well, let me say a couple of things about it. First of all, I think that yes, a lot of money has been spent on it. But, if you were to go around and look at what it cost to build a hospital, you have not spent that much money. And, on top of all that, by having this partnership, we have been able to keep our cost down. I mean, the amount of money that we are spending on equipment is significantly lower than we originally projected by working through this partnership. I think all of this is still an experiment, but I feel like the facility is well positioned because it is providing what is the most critical need, which is for 24 hour modern full service emergency department. When I talked with Chief Crum and we talk periodically, he probably expresses it far better than I ever could when he talks about how important it is going to be for this community to have a local place that is a high quality institution where those ambulances can pull up without having to leave Gadsden County. The vast majority of them won't have to leave the county any longer. So, the hospital is going to provide that immediate need in this county and provide cost savings. But, more importantly, it will hopefully save lives.

On the other hand, the facility has the room to be a lot more things in the future. Exactly what those things will be remains to be seen. Ultimately, the people of Gadsden County are going to decide whether this hospital is successful or not. But, this facility has a lot of flexibility in it. The one thing that I am pretty confident of is that it evolve in ways that we don't even know as we sit

here today. But, it's got the ability to go in all sorts of different directions. So, to me, it is really a win/win/win situation for ya'll.

Lamb:
O.K.

Croley:
Thank you, Mr. Glazer.

Lamb:
Are there any other commissioners? Commissioner Morgan.

Morgan:
Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Glazer, thanks again for your presentation. I think it is important to note here a couple of things. Number 1, healthcare, quality healthcare is vital to a community who is looking to grow. This will positively impact us economically as we look forward to economic development in this community and in so many other ways years down the road. Quite frankly, I think we have positioned ourselves, as you mentioned earlier, absolutely perfectly because we now have flexibility to grow as things change and they will rapidly change in the next 4 – 5 years as you have mentioned.

Number 2 – we have insured our sustainability because of the partnership that we have with HCA and the quality of care for our citizens is going to be exactly what we would receive over in Tallahassee. Am I correct about that?

Glazer:
Oh, yeah!

Morgan:
So, all of that combined with the fact that Number 1, this was a mandated facility by the public, by the voters of Gadsden County. We have done that. We have fulfilled that. And Number 2, we have done so in a manner that does not expose us financially because that money that you referred to that we spent on this facility, that debt service is well covered by this half cent indigent care sales tax that is being generated. Am I correct in that?

Glazer:
Yes, sir.

Morgan:
That is all I had to say. Thank you very much.

Glazer:
Let me give one reaction to that, too. A number of, well, it wasn't that many years ago, but I worked on the project that brought the hospital to South Walton County in Destin, the new

Sacred Heart that came there a few years ago. In working of that project, we worked very closely with the people of the St. Joe Company. I don't have to tell you the investment that St. Joe has in South Walton County. The reason that they were so adamant about working with us to get that hospital was they said there are three things you have to have to have a successful community. You have to have transportation infrastructure, you have to have schools and you've got to have a hospital. That is the component that we are bringing to Gadsden County. That was their model for successful economic development.

Lamb:
Commissioner Taylor.

Taylor:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me just say that since taking my seat in 2008, November 2008, it has been my desire to see this day. I wanted to see this day in 2009, obviously, but as it was something mentioned at our previous meeting, this was well paced, we took our time. Now, we have a supreme project in our emergency facility. 70% of those who have been transported over to Tallahassee will no longer have to be. That is the percentage. I don't know the percentage of lives that were lost because of time, but that is a percentage that we can now say can also be eliminated because of the availability and the quality of services out there.

You said a few minutes ago, based on the health reform that is coming out of Washington, that it was coincidental. I have been on this soap opera box since day one in saying that you can't stop anything that is good. You just can't do it. And, that hospital is not only good, it is great. I don't think that it is coincidental, I think it is fate. I don't think that it is coincident that all that has gone on with the approval just recently from AHCA. I know you gave that big long name, but that was AHCA. We have been listening and hoping that we could pass those. I don't think we are going to have any problems on the 28th & 29th because it is a food thing and it is going to help this county. Now someone touched on it a minute ago, but I want to echo that now it is time for the upturn of this county because in just about every category, we have been either 66 or 67 or 65 when it comes to ranking among the counties for services – health, education & jobs. WE have always been at the bottom. But, this is a turn up because of that premier project that is out there.

I want to personally thank each of you for the work that you have done. That is not enough. I wish there was some kind of way that I could really express what is on the inside. I do know that on the 8th of June, which is what I was told would be the grand opening date – I'm going to say this and it is going to sound facetious, but I don't care if Obama asks me to come to Washington, I don't care if I have just won the Lotto, 1.2 million, I don't care how many million dollars – it will not be done on the 8th. I will be out there at that hospital. This will be my first visit. I have not been out there since it got started. I pledged to myself that I won't go until it opens and until it is completed. We will bless God. I hope there will be some kind of religious ceremony put out there on that day. I hope we won't abate that because this is government. I think that no matter what we do, there is an involvement of God.

So, from my heart to yours, I want to thank you. Mr. Chairman, you gave a speech last week at our last meeting thanking this board and I, too, want to convey those sentiments. We have had some ups and downs. There have been some hard struggles. We've had some disagreements

around this board. We had some arguments. But, at the end of the day, we came together to produce a superior product, which is that emergency room. I, out of all the things we have done around this diocese for the last year and a half, almost two years, this is one of the proudest moments. This is one of the proudest things we have accomplished and I want to personally thank everyone for a job well done.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Lamb:

To my fellow board members, I can't thank you enough - these three other board members that you see here. Ladies and gentlemen, to our hospital board and to our health council and to our attorneys and staff and to Mr. Clyde Collins – this partnership – the attorney said he didn't know what to call it. Just call it blessed. That is all it is. It is just a blessing. Like the commissioner to my left has stated, we have gone through a lot for the last three years with this hospital. But, look at us now. It is because these four commissioners that you see here stayed firm. We were firm in our belief, we were firm in believing that we could do what it took to get that hospital open. We were doing it from our heart and we were doing it for the citizens of Gadsden County. That is all it was. We were doing it from our heart and we were doing it for the citizens and Gadsden County. Politics was not included at all in our minds. That is why we took our time. That is why we were patient. That is why we stood firm – for you and all the citizens of Gadsden County. I am appealing to all of the citizens from Gadsden County – from Chattahoochee to Greensboro, to Gretna, to Quincy, to Havana, to Midway to support this facility. This is a first class facility and this facility can grow.

With our school system making a big improvement and improving every day, we will soon have our school system doing well. Now, we've got healthcare in this county doing well. So, all we have to do is stay together and support each other. That is why we are where we are right now with this hospital. We are letting the world know that if you stick together as a board and do the right thing for the citizens of Gadsden County and not let your personal agendas or your politics come into play, you can do whatever you want to do to advance this county.

This county is on the right path. This county is doing well. When you spend \$1.3 million for administration six years ago and now you are spending less than \$700,000 – are you telling me that we are not going in the right direction? You are out of your mind if you think that we are not going in the right direction. This county is going in the right way. This county is using the funds that the taxpayers send here wisely. We didn't do that before. I am including myself – we did not do that five, six, seven years ago. I came on this board in 2004 and we didn't do that. We were spending the taxpayers money as fast as we got it. But, we are not doing that now. We are doing the right thing for you, for Gadsden County. This county is moving in the right direction. If anyone tells you anything different, they are lying. Anything different, they are lying. You know we are going in the right direction. They know we are going in the right direction. So, don't use politics to try to make a lie out of what we are doing and what you are doing by supporting us. That is why we are moving in the right direction because of your support. We couldn't do this without your support. The citizens of Gadsden County right now is more closely together than they have ever been in the last 15-20 years because we are doing things together. If anybody has any questions about that, tell them to call me and I will repeat myself right in their ears.

I can't be any happier than I am today because of these three commissioners who have supported this cause and this attorney firm who has gone out of their way. We can't give our hospital board enough credit. I don't know how Mr. Craig McMillan does it, but evidently, God has blessed him to do what he is doing. He has put in hours after hours after hours and hasn't gotten a penny for what he has done.

The same thing for Mr. Clyde Lawson who works for the county. He hasn't been paid what he should be paid. Mr. Clyde Collins. (laughter) I've got a friend named Clyde Lawson, that is why I am always getting your name mixed up. But anyway, it is such a blessing folks. It is such a blessing to be in the position that we are in this county now. I am just asking everybody in this county and the people who are here to go back to your different areas. When you get the opportunity, go by the hospital and let Clyde Collins give you a tour of the hospital. He will do that any day that you want to do it. Then go back to your community and tell them what you see down there. Just let them know what you see.

The commissioner to my left said that she hasn't been down there, but she can feel what is down there. She can feel it. She knows it is good down there. Now, today, he brought us pictures of what is down there. On June 8th, I want to see all ya'll's faces in the place on June 8th. It is going to be a Hallelujah time on June 8th.

Again, thank you, Mr. Glazer for this update.

CONSENT AGENDA

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA TO WIT: (ITEMS 4 – 11)

4. Approval of Minutes – March 16, 2010 Regular Meeting
5. Ratification of Approval to Pay County Bills
Accounts Payables Dated: May 7 & 14, 2010
Payroll Dated: May 6, 2010
6. Appointment of Mrs. Emily Rowan and Mrs. Rebecca B. Gregory to the Gadsden County Library Commission from District 3
7. Recommendation by the Chamber of Commerce to Appoint Hemant Patel (Owner of Holiday Inn Express) to Workforce Plus Governing Board.
8. Approval of Resolution 2010-026, Proclaiming May 16, 2010 – May 22, 2010 as Emergency Medical Services Week
9. Approval of New Road Names – Cummings Lane – East off Reed St. South of Joe Adams Road

10. Approval of Budget Amendment OMB-BA 100081 – GHI Security Expenses for Hospital
11. Resolution 2010-019 thru 2010-026 Recognizing Contributions to the Gadsden Memorial Hospital Project
Curtis Richardson – FL Representative
Alan Williams – FL Representative
Maximo Martinez – Gadsden County Health Council
Arthur Lawson – FL Senator
Clyde Collins – Gadsden County Building Official
Arthur Lawson – Management Services, Assistant County Administrator
GHI Board of Directors
Clerk Nicholas Thomas

CITIZENS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Jackie Williams , Community Educator with Covenant Hospice, 1545 Raymond Diehl Road Tallahassee, FL addressed the board. She stated that she is working hard to raise awareness in the community about Covenant Hospice and the services that are available in Gadsden County. She pointed out that Covenant Hospice is not associated with Big Bend Hospice. She stated that they have a doctor who makes home visits to the people in their care and they also have an arrangement with River Chase Nursing home to house patients who can no longer stay in the home for their last days.

Commissioner Taylor stated, “I have had a chance to meet this young lady and work with her to get information out into the community. It is a worthwhile program and there are a lot of people who don’t know the availability of Hospice. Whatever it is that we can do to get it out there, I did want to ask, Mr. Chairman and as well, the county administrator, if they could get some information from this program and have it put on our website so that folk who might need these services can have access to it through that mean. So, that is what I am requesting. To have her meet with the county administrator and see if we can also help in getting the word out.”

Dorothy Inman Johnson – revisited:

Thank you. I have spent a little bit of time on my cell phone outside and I am reporting that it is costing about \$4,500 - \$5,000 per unit in Gadsden County for the weatherization. So, it is pretty much maxing out what can be spent per unit. So, it is going to be close to the figure that I had announced.

I am pleased to announce with more updated figures from my staff – they obviously gave me low numbers – instead of 61 units being completed in Gadsden County, there are 91 units that have been completed in Gadsden County and there are 20 more in progress. On our waiting list, obviously, that is a problem. We have 372 people on the waiting list with applications. Obviously, if we can only do 222 units or a little bit more, based on the amount per unit, out of all the money we are getting from the federal government, there are going to be some people who are not

going to be served. We have applications coming in every day, so, we are obviously going to have to close that waiting list.

Right now, we have one major contractor out of Gadsden County. I have them researching to find out how many applications or proposals we received from Gadsden County. My staff is telling me that we did not receive a good response of proposals from Gadsden County, but I have them researching to find out how many other contractors submitted proposals. I can provide that information to you later.

We have 16 jobs that have been created in Gadsden County since November.

Lamb:

Do you have the name of the contractor?

Johnson:

The name of the contractor is Calvin Robinson. And, for the question you asked earlier, Commissioner Taylor about where we post the list. We can't post our list because people come to us for services and their applications are confidential. However, in future reports, status reports to the commission, I will have specific breakdowns on the numbers of applications, the numbers of who has been notified, the numbers that are in progress, the numbers that have been completed in future status reports.

Taylor:

Thank you so much for getting that information. Commissioner Croley did ask earlier if the 61 homes were in Gadsden County.

Johnson:

That is what I am reporting. I got clarification. The 61 I reported before were Gadsden County, however, they updated me with more current information to 91 homes, units, completed in Gadsden County with 20 in progress.

Lamb:

Thank you very much, Ms. Johnson.

12. Amendment to the Comprehensive Health Care Plan

Johnny Williams:

You all are well aware that the amount of money available to the Health Council has been reduced from the original plan requiring an amendment. I think Maximo will explain that to you.

Maximo Martinez:

Thank you and good morning Mr. Chair. Good morning, Commissioners.

First of all, let me thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your fairness and at least acknowledging that the Health Council was also a part of this effort for the hospital. I want to thank you for that.

The second part of the half cent sales tax is the Comprehensive Healthcare Plan. As you know, in the many presentations that I have made, I always knew that we had to go back kind of make changes to the Comprehensive Healthcare Plan. Well, this is the time. All we are asking, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners is the opportunity to go back and look at the original Comprehensive Healthcare Plan and make the changes to reflect the reduction of funds that we have now.

Lamb:
Repeat your question again.

Martinez:
Sure. The request is to have this board approve, give us approval, the Health Council, to go back and tweak a change the Comprehensive Healthcare Plan to reflect the reduction in funds that we now have.

Lamb:
Who will you coordinate this with?

Martinez:
Well, we've got the Health Council Board. We also met with Mr. Wethington. We also met with the county attorney. We met with Craig McMillan. All the key players in this process. This is well recommended, I might add, I don't know if it was coincidence, but Commissioner Croley and the county attorney strongly recommended that we connected with these entities so we could prepare a better plan.

Lamb:
O.K. Mr. Glazer, do you have any comments on this?

Glazer:
My only comment is that it is appropriate for them to rework the plan at this point to reflect the smaller amount. I would like to see what comes out of it, but it will ultimately come back to the board, but it is appropriate to do that.

Croley:
Mr. Chair, so are we ready to move forward now, Mr. Glazer and Mr. McMillan, with this next step, in your opinion?

Glazer:
I believe so, yes.

Croley:
O.K.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO AUTHORIZE THE HEALTH COUNCIL TO AMEND THE

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE PLAN TO REFLECT THE REDUCTION IN FUNDING TO THE HEALTH COUNCIL AND BRING IT BACK TO THE BOARD FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

13. Approval of CDBG Grant Contract #10-DB-K4-02-30-01-K13 - \$241,866.00- Disaster Recovery Initiative

Crawfish Island Project – to re-enforce banks of Mosquito Creek adjacent to Crawfish Island to alleviate current and foreseeable flooding issues

Audrey Moore, Governance Solutions, Inc. was present to answer questions.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE TO APPROVE AND EXECUTE THE GRANT CONTRACT DESCRIBED ABOVE.

14. Approval of Second Quarter Financial Report by Sherrilynn Chess

Questions raised by the commissioners regarding the report:

Croley:

Just to look at the summary, we are at approximately at 50% of the year. Yet, I am looking at the percentages of the 2010 budget. It looks like you have spent about 59% according to page 3 at the bottom. Is that correct?

Chess:

What you are looking at is general fund numbers. Where are you looking?

Croley:

I am on page 3 of your second quarter report. I just want you to explain, if you would, the 59%.

Chess:

That is for the Constitutional Officers, not the budget as a whole. If you calculate as a whole, between all funds, we are at 47% of the operating expenditures. That does not include the debt service or capital projects. So, if you see 59%, that is under the Constitutional Officers.

Croley:

But, that is all a part of county government. I am just trying to make sure that I am understanding this correctly. In other words, Mr. Clerk, as the chief financial officer, are we tracking?

Clerk Thomas:

Nobody has gotten any money that they were not suppose to get. A couple may get – the Property Appraiser, for example, instead of monthly draws, he might get it quarterly. So, that might factor into it. But, he won't get more than 100% of what he is asking. He may have gotten a little bit more of his draw simply because he gets it on a quarterly basis.

Croley:

My point was that if anyone saw this, and you were making the statement that you are at 47%, I didn't want there to be any confusion in the public mind or a misinterpretation by someone. I appreciate you clarifying that for the record.

Morgan:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Chess, thanks for providing this report to us. I know it takes a lot of your time and focus to get it done. I think it has been helpful for us. I do have a question on page 2.

Under second quarter fiscal year major operating fund analysis. In the third column, it shows revenues and expenses. I will just take the first line. General fund, it shows second quarter revenues of \$11,660,000. Is that year to date? Or is that just the second quarter?

Chess:

That is the second quarter.

Morgan:

That is just the second quarter. Then when you go over to the next page to page 3 – Animal Control – it is just the top one that I am picking out here. All of those are second quarter expenses, those are not year to date expenses?

Chess:

Second quarter.

Morgan:

All right. So, there was nothing in the first quarter that we spent on animal control?

Chess:

Well, it was from October 1 to March 31st, which is a combination of the first six months.

Morgan:

So, it is year to date, it is not second quarter.

Chess:

It is the year to date. When you said "year to date," I was thinking that you were talking about as of

Morgan:

Fiscal year to date.

Chess:

I was thinking that you were talking about as of this month. But, it is as of March 31st. the fiscal year to date.

Morgan:

Fiscal year to date. So, that is the same case on the revenue on the previous page. That is fiscal year to date, that is not second quarter revenue.

Chess:

No, it is not the second quarter alone, it is a combination of the first and second quarter.

Morgan:

That might be important to distinguish in the future so that we will know – When are we collecting our revenue or when are the majority of the expenses in each of these departments occurring throughout the year. That way, we can establish a trend so that we know, for example, that third quarter is typically high in expenses for department whatever. That way, we can better gauge how we truly are doing during the year. I really appreciate the report.

Clerk Thomas, I have a quick question. Thank you for being here this morning. In your opinion, for the record, how are we doing financially as compared to recent previous years? How are we managing the money and sticking to the budget. Are we improving or are we not improving.

Thomas:

You are sticking to your budget pretty well. I think you are going to have a good fiscal year. When you get to September 30,

Morgan:

I can't hear you. I apologize.

Thomas:

If you continue at this pace, you will have excess revenue to expenditures at the end of the fiscal year. So, I think you will be better this fiscal year than you have been for the previous two or three.

Morgan:

So, we are improving then?

Thomas:

You are improving.

Morgan:

Thank you very much. Great. That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Lamb:

Thank you Ms. Sherrilyn. The Clerk says that we are improving. Of course, I knew all the time that we were.

15. Approval to Award RFP No. 10-03 for County Auditing Services to Purvis Gray and Company of Tallahassee, FL

Ron Whitesides, Ryan Tucker from Purvis Gray & Company

Lamb:

Are there any questions of Mr. Lawson?

Taylor:

I do. Looking at the bid and reading from the packet, I noticed, that just for clarification, why did not one of the bidders not have any points assigned to them? Did they not submit a proposal? That was Watson & Rice. In every line item, I saw you indicated a "0" scoring rate.

Lawson:

Yes, Ma'am. They did submit a proposal, but when the committee initially reviewed that proposal, the committee voted to eliminate that proposal for that particular entity for not meeting the requirements of the RFP.

Taylor:

They did not meet the requirements of the RFP?

Lawson:

Yes, Ma'am.

Taylor:

That threw me off a little bit because you indicated that there were four that had submitted.

Lawson:

Yes, there were four. And, the Watson, as I put in the agenda item, when the evaluation committee reviewed their proposal, it was determined that they did not meet the technical requirements because the partners who would have been in charge of the county's audit did not demonstrate the specific current experience in auditing county government.

Taylor:

Are you sure? Is that not the same firm that has been doing the City of Quincy's audit for the last five or six years?

Lawson:

They have been doing the city's. We asked for "county government" experience.

Taylor:

You said municipalities or did you specifically say "county?" I didn't hear that, I apologize. I thought you said – so it was that specific.

Lawson:

Yes, that is the reason that their proposal was rejected. Yes.

Taylor:

So all of the other three were – I know this number 4 – I think they were our previous auditors – no, number 3 were our previous auditors.

Lawson:
Yes, Ma'am.

Taylor:
So, you are saying that the other two that were selected and scored did have county experiences?

Lawson:
Yes, Ma'am.

Taylor:
And, one last and final question. The criteria that they must have county experience were put in the RFP?

Lawson:
They were listed in the RFP. The criteria that we used to evaluate all of the proposals were included in the RFP.

Taylor:
Thank you.

Lamb:
Commissioner Croley?

Croley:
I certainly have no problem with the committee's recommendation with Purvis Gray. They are a well known firm with many years of experience in county auditing as well as a lot of utility experience. The big concern that I have, and Mr. Chair, I would like to direct this to the commission, the attorney and Clerk Thomas. It is that we, I think, need to improve our standards in the contract with the audit firms, whichever firm may be chosen or selected by the board. To that end, I would like to bring up three points that I have discussed with the Clerk, Mr. Lawson and Dale Summerford, Tax Collector as well as Mr. Williams as administrator. Those three points would be to establish a target date for the delivery of the completed audit. To improve the ethics and performance of the selected audit firms and provide complete audit reports with oral explanations to be made available to each member of the board of county commissioners as a part of the contract. I am not suggesting that the present audit firm or any past audit firm may not have been doing some of these things, but I think that it is important that it been in the contractual document that the board would approve and request the county attorney's office to look at these items if the board would so approve.

The first one is a target date. I discussed this with Clerk Thomas. I would ask that we establish March 1st target date for the delivery of the completed audit. I know that other counties do receive their audits along about that time.

Commissioner Taylor, I know you asked the question about where is the audit for this past year. I don't believe that we have received it to date and we will soon be into June. So, if I may share these points with you.

Lamb:
Go ahead and read them to us.

Croley:
I would like to establish a target date of March 1st for the delivery of the completed audit. Failing to meet this target date should contractually penalize and require the audit firm to provide both an oral and written report to be delivered to the board of county commissioners at it's first regular March meeting detailing the specific reason or reasons that the target audit delivery deadline cannot be met.

The second – improve the ethics and performance of the selected audit firm by contractually prohibiting the immediate family members of any principle of the auditing firm before or at any time during the contract term to be employed or contracted for accounting services within any unit of county government covered by the scope of the county's audit, including the offices and operations of all constitutional officers.

Third, provide complete written audit reports with oral explanation to each member of the board of county commissioners. Such reports and explanations are to include the individual audit reports for each constitutional officers' operations as well as the consolidated county audit report.

If I may make that as a motion, Mr. Chair, I would so move those items be included in any contract entered into with an auditing firm by the attorney's office.

Lamb:
With that motion, though, we need to have our attorney to look at it and make sure that it is in line.

Taylor:
Before you make a motion –

Lamb:
We are going through questions with it, too.

Croley:
I would move the approval of Purvis and Gray with these provisions with the attorney being able to look at these points.

Lamb:
Can I get a second, then I will take the questions.

Taylor:
I don't want to second it just yet. Can you just hold your motion for a moment? I will.

Croley:

I will pull my motion.

Taylor:

Commissioner Croley, you are dead on target. But, what I am looking for is a contractual agreement that spells out those three things plus. I think that is what we need to be able to go through because looking at what was presented to us are just bullet points. What they will cover and what they will do. There is nothing on our behalf as to what an auditing firm should do.

For example, you mentioned having a meeting with us on a specific time. I am sorry.

Lawson:

Commissioner, if I may.

Taylor:

Yes, I will yield.

Lawson:

Today was just to present the firm to get approval. We will be bringing back a detailed contract of what they are going to do before you.

Taylor:

Well, that is good, but as Commissioner Croley is saying here, we should have some specifics from this board to see.

Lawson:

Oh, yes, Ma'am. We will include whatever you decide in the contract. But, I just wanted to clarify that today, we were just trying to get approval on the auditing firm.

Taylor:

I needed to hear that from you. I needed to hear that. So, I guess what we are saying is that I am in agreement with you. But, I just want to make sure that all the points are covered. That we look at this as a body and make sure that the three points might need to be looked at. There are some other issues. What happens is we get a qualified audit? What happens if we – Well obviously, it is good to get an unqualified audit. But, there is still some more language before we sign a contract – that we need to be notified well in advance if there is going to be a qualified report. That will hurt. These are things that we need to discuss. I agree with you, but I just want to make sure that the whole nine yards are included in that contract.

Lamb:

I think Mr. Lawson will get that back to us in time so we can read it and have questions. Once you get the material, and you want to call him before we get to the commission meeting and make sure that you iron out some things, please do that so we won't have to linger on it here at the commission meetings. I would like to have these things included, too.

Morgan:

Is that something, Mr. Chair, that we need to actually act on here this morning or just have that included in what Mr. Lawson will bring back to us.

Lamb:

Include it in what Mr. Lawson is going to bring back.

Taylor:

I will motion it.

Croley:

Well, before we do, with your permission, Mr. Clerk. You have to deal with this audit situation all the time. You and your staff, you have to have these audits on a timely basis and I know that you have expressed concern on several occasions about the lateness of when you receive them. I think you may want to clarify for everyone what the problem is.

Thomas:

I will just say that the March 1st date is fine. For us, the drop dead date is March 31st. I have mentioned that a couple of times. We will work hard and I am sure the auditors will, too, to meet the March 1st date. But, our drop dead date is March 31st. An earlier date is something that we will all work to comply with. April, June, July and I think last year it was August 19th. That is late. There are a lot of entities that require these audits. All the people you get grants from, the Auditor General's Office and a lot of other state entities - there are possible penalties if you don't get them the audit reports on a timely basis.

So, absolutely, there needs to be a deadline in the contract. The 31st probably works best for us. What we are saying is that the whole process is not over when they give you the audit. They complete the audit, they come and report to you in the month of March – If you are saying that the deadline is March 1st, does that mean that they report to you in February?

Croley:

The intent, Mr. Clerk, is to try to achieve your objective by having the deadline March 1st. If for some reason, they can't meet that, they can certainly come and explain why they couldn't. But, if we wait until April 1st, that may push us back into May. The objective was to try to get it at the first of March. I know that many other counties much bigger than this county are telling me that they have gotten theirs on March 1st or thereabouts. I think that is really what we need to reach for. Maybe you have worked this out in terms of exact wording that you feel comfortable with, but, that that be a target date.

Thomas:

I know that sometimes there may be a constitutional officer who has drug it out a little longer than usual and that sort of thing.

Croley:

Then, that will have to be explained. I mean, but, I am not trying to get into any particular constitutional officers situation, that is their business. But, they need to - we cant' have the

whole world stop there.

Lamb:

Let me say this, I think the target date could be March 1st. But, now, like they are saying, they can come here and tell us why they can't get it delivered by March 1st.

Thomas:

And that the absolute drop dead date is March 31st.

Lamb:

Right. If there is a constitutional officer dragging and not doing what they are suppose to do, we need to know it. So, they need to come and let us know. We want to make sure that we let the auditors know that. Don't hold nothing back when someone else is not doing their job. We need to know who is not doing their job. We don't want to hold up everybody else because one constitutional officer is not doing their job.

Thomas:

We have had an issue, and this might sound minor to you, but it is major to us. Copies. The previous auditors or the current auditor have not always provided enough bound copies with all the constitutional officers and the board in it. A couple of times, we have actually take the audit report and have it printed ourselves to get additional copies. So, that is something that we would like to make sure that is covered. Adequate number of copies. You can talk to Mr. Lawson about the number.

Lamb:

And number 3 here is to provide written audit report with an oral explanation to each member of the board of county commissioners. Such report and explanation are to include individual audit report of each constitutional officers operating as well as the consolidated county audit report.

I think Mr. Lawson can look at this and include this into his contract. He is going to get it back to us and we are going to look at it. If we have any questions, we can get with Mr. Lawson before we get to the commission meeting here. That way we can finalize everything here.

Croley:

One last question on the pricing, Mr. Chair. Under this proposal, it looks like we are giving an automatic \$4,000 increase a year. Now, that is one of the things, you know, if we are not getting the service, I think we need to be able, as good stewards of the public money, we shouldn't be paying for poor services and automatically giving increases. That is how come, and I am hoping as you work up the contract, You and Ms. Minnis, that you would not just automatically have us approving increases without a proper performance. That is why I said, Mr. Chair, about possibility of a financial penalty.

Lamb:

I think Mr. Lawson got the point and I think he will take care of it in the contract. Give him an opportunity to do it. Get it back to us. If we need to add, we will add.

Taylor:

I think right now, Mr. Chair, this is a good time to stop all the dialogue. We are giving him directions now, which are great directions, but to piggy back on the obligation to give them the \$4,000 for poor performance, I agree also that we need to put in there somewhere, “if we are fiscally able” to give those additional dollars, then so. If not, and it looks like we are not going to be able to increase in these two years to come, we might need to just plug that into the language. If this county is fiscally able to agree and go along with the increase, then yes along with performance.

Lamb:

I don’t see anything wrong with that.

Taylor:

That is it.

Lamb:

I think that is good.

Morgan:

I have several comments. I appreciate it Mr. Chair.

I think it is important as a board that we let Mr. Lawson and his department put together an agreement to review. He knows how to do this. We are simply giving some additional guidelines and we need to let them do their job then review what they bring back to us. I think it is very important – the three points that Commissioner Croley brought up to be included in that. I think it is good to have that input. I would ask just a couple of things.

Mr. Clerk, is there anything that we haven’t mentioned that we are overlooking that needs to be put in there that you can bring to the attention of Mr. Lawson. I am not asking right now, but, I am just saying communications to insure that we have a good agreement with whoever is selected here.

Thomas:

I can’t think of anything right now, but I will get with my finance staff and get with Mr. Lawson.

Morgan:

I think that will be great. Again, I read through this and I have no problems at all with the recommendation of the group for the RFP. I do have a couple of questions. One thing that I noted in this agreement and it may be standard. Mr. Lawson, I don’t know, but a 30 day not to renew clause by either party so that gives us the out. We can say, “Hey, we ain’t happy with what you are doing” or “We ain’t going to be able to give you a 4% increase.” You would need to have the option of not renewing with the county based on whatever the current economic environment might be. Those kinds of things might be something that is important.

I didn’t read anywhere in here. What are we spending now for auditing services? I thought it was about \$150,000 to \$160,000.

Lawson:

I almost have to defer to the Clerk. I think it is somewhere in the neighborhood – and it has been a three year thing that the board agrees to. I think we started out somewhere around \$130,000. And we might be up to

Thomas:

\$149,000.

Lawson:

\$149,000.

Morgan:

So, \$150,000 and we are talking about this year \$126,000. So

Lawson:

Now, keep in mind, Commissioner, if they have to do any additional work, there will be additional charges.

Morgan:

And, that is my next question that I have here. What is defined as additional work? Why is there a necessity for much additional work?

Lawson:

If you don't mind, could I bring somebody up from the firm and let them respond to your question?

Morgan:

Yes, absolutely.

Ron Whitesides:

Good morning. My name is Ron Whitesides. I am a partner with Purvis Gray & Company out of our Gainesville office. I am the partner that has been assigned to your proposal and will be handling your account. With me is Ryan Tucker. He is out of our Tallahassee office and is one of our Senior Managers. The two of us will be responsible for making sure that the county receives excellent service.

If you give me the latitude, I will address some of the questions that have been raised here today, at least my observations on them.

Lamb:

Address Mr. Morgan.

Whitesides:

Yes, sir. The issue of a target date – March 31st is probably customary in the industry. That is the deadline for a certificate of achievement award from the GFOA although the county is not

currently applying for that. So, we are used to working with that as a common deadline. We are currently auditing about six counties and 25 cities around the state. From my prospective, I am happy to have a March 31st deadline. We will get it done by then unless there is an issue here that would prohibit us from being able to complete the audit. As has been said here, you would like for us to come March 1st or 31st, whenever that is, and talk to you about why there would be a delay. I am happy to do that as well. One thing that I think I heard here a little bit, you know, we have a very clear understanding that our relationship is to report to the Board of County Commissioners when we perform the county audit. We obviously work with the Clerk's office and we work with all the officers, but we do report to you about the consolidated audit.

Something else that was raised was the concept of individual meetings. We did perform your audit. The last year we did it was 2002. Back then, actually, we did meet with each of the county commissioners at the conclusion of the audit to sit down and talk about the results of the audit. I enjoy doing that and it gives me the opportunity to get to know each of you a little bit. We will be happy to do that again.

Something else that was mentioned was providing the number of reports. You know, you have specified in your proposal what you need and we are happy to get you that. If you need a few more, we are happy to get you that as well.

Now, specifically – why would there be additional billings on contracts and who defines that and how is that defined? It is really defined in auditing standards as to what is expected that an auditor does. In layman's terms, what we expect is that when we come in to do the audit, that there be an auditable set of records. If we come in and find that one of the officers or the board's records are in such a condition that a significant recrafting of the records has to be done because they are factually and materially incorrect – negligent might be a good word to describe the accounting for them – then the issue becomes : Well somebody is going to have to clean these books up before we can verify the numbers. Well, what an audit is supposed to be is us coming in and verifying that your numbers are accurate. If it is going to be more than that, then we begin hitting that threshold moment of who is going to do this extra work? Is this something that we need to back off and step away from the audit and give you time to do it or do you want us to do it or do you want to hire another firm to come in and do the clean up work? That is the tipping point.

Morgan:

Do you mind if I interrupt. I appreciate your remarks. I have a comment for the Clerk. Is what he was just talking about, I mean, Ms. Muriel was saying that it was the end of August or something that we got our audit report. Are these the reasons that we are not getting it or is it just because the copies haven't been out? I mean, what is – is this a history that we've got an issue in Gadsden County or what?

Thomas:

Well, I will give you an example. When Purvis Gray & Company did our audit before, they would usually come in around December and bring in a whole bunch of people. They would be here for three weeks and then they were gone and we got our audit reports by March 31st. The current firm doesn't usually come in until after Christmas and sometimes not until February. And, they

don't usually bring a whole team like Purvis Gray used to do . He brought a whole team of people. Law Redd Crona doesn't bring in but one or two people in at a time. Sometimes, the main person is in our conference room for weeks and weeks and weeks because there is only one person working.

We prefer a whole team of people coming in for three weeks because while they are here, it is hard for our finance director to get very much else done because she is constantly having to answer the auditors' questions and provide them with information and that sort of thing. So, that concentrated period of time is preferable. You get a team here, you get the job done and they go back and you get your report in a timely way.

The current firm just doesn't come in until February and they stay here until March or April sometimes. This year, they have been gone since March. But, there are a number of reasons that go into why. Some of it probably has to do with other audits that they have to do. But, I think that they need to answer the question, really. Now, there is one thing. For the past two or three years, we have been doing all of the financial statements after they have completed the audit. Well, we can't start on that until til they finish with everybody. So, that takes us a couple of weeks sometimes to get done. So, we need a little time to get that done.

But, mainly, I think the problem is the issue of coming in, bringing a team, getting the job done and then going back and pulling together the audit. We just haven't had that with the current firm.

Morgan:

O.K. So, that is a logistical issue. That can be, as you mentioned, that was not a problem previously. There is nothing on the part of the citizens of Gadsden County have a concern about as far our availability of information from any of the constitutional officers, the accuracy, the causing of time lines to be pushed back. That is what I am interested in – to make sure that we aren't or that this is not an issue. But, that is what you are saying.

Thomas:

I am not aware of anything as it relates to the clerk or the board. Your records and the Clerk's record – absolutely. They have been done with the Clerk a long, long, long time.

Morgan:

And that is important. O.K.

Thomas:

(inaudible) a copy of that report. I really think that the firm needs to answer some of these questions. But, from the beginning, we have not been a priority. They have never reported by March 31. Never – since they have been doing the audit for six years now.

Morgan:

Thank you.

Lamb:

O.K. Do we have any other questions of him?

Commissioner Croley.

Croley:

I just wanted to ask you, sir, and thank you for coming up. When additional costs are incurred, you would explain then or report to the board that there is going to be additional cost and why before we automatically put that in a contract or how does that work? Maybe you could elaborate.

Whitesides:

I will tell you typically how it works and what our audit engagement letter will say is that if we encounter significant additional work beyond the scope of what is a normal audit, we will meet with management to discuss what the issue is and arrive at what we agree to be an appropriate resolution- whether it would be county personnel to fix the records or whether they want to do some sort of RFP to hire a firm or whether they would want to contract with us. Those types of things would normally be subject to all of your customary vendor policies and purchasing. I will tell you in general, we don't customarily or historically with Gadsden County have done additional billings with you if I remember correctly. I think we have pretty much been able to stick with the audit fee. Of course, I don't know the status of the records today since we haven't done an audit, but it is not customary that that would happen.

Croley:

I know that we need to move this item and if you are willing to entertain a motion, I will

Lamb:

We need to approve what Mr. Lawson has asked of us. Mr. Lawson, what are you asking for us to do?

Lawson:

I am asking you to award the auditing services to Purvis Gray and allow the administrator the opportunity to negotiate a contract and bring it back for approval.

Croley:

Then I will move that subject to the inclusion of the three provisions and Commissioner Taylor's fourth recommendation about a provision in there to terminate.

Lamb:

You have heard that motion. We are ready for questions. Commissioner Taylor, do you have anything you want to add?

Taylor:

No, sir. I am ready to move.

Lamb:

O.K. We are ready to vote. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Lamb:
Opposes?

(no response)

The “Ayes” have it. Thank you.

Mr. Lawson, do you want a copy of this or do you already have one?

Lawson:
I will get a copy of that from the administrator.

Croley:
We need to also give it to the Clerk for the record.

Lamb:
Thank you.

16. **Approval of Lawn Care Contract for the Chattahoochee Public Library to Gregory Donald Lawn Service - \$300 per month or \$150 per cut**

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT NAMED ABOVE.

17. **Renewal of Legal Services Contract with the Law firm of Ausley and McMullen as County Attorney**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH AUSLEY MCMULLEN LAW FIRM.

Morgan:
I need to know what the total cost that the current firm has been for the past 12 months. Somebody must have that figure.

Williams:
Yeah, they do.

Lawson:
Unfortunately Commissioner, I don't have that figure with me today. I can get you that figure shortly after the meeting.

Morgan:
Thank you Mr. Lawson, I appreciate it. When you are considering an item like this, I would think,

to me, that would be the very first thing that would run through my head. “O.K. Here is what our existing agreement is, but in total, this is what we spent.” I want to say that I think they have done an outstanding job for us during this past year.

Williams:
I certainly agree.

Morgan:
But, that is just the way that my warped brain works. But I do second that motion.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH THE AUSLEY AND MCMULLEN LAW FIRM.

18. Contract with District Board of Trustee of North Florida Community College to allow their Paramedic and EMT students to perform clinical rides with Gadsden EMS

Commissioner Taylor voiced some concern about the contract seemingly to be an open ended contract. She asked that it be done in increments of three to five years instead. That would give the board an opportunity to review how well the program is working or if there are any concerns to be addressed. She also suggested that a “Hold Harmless” clause would spell out more protection for the county.

Commissioner Morgan asked the attorney if she had reviewed the contract.

Ms. Minnis replied, “Yes, I have. Actually, we dealt with the “Hold Harmless” issue and that is why Paragraph 8 was inserted. We had different language in there and we got a little bit of push back. So, what we did was we got in touch with Tallahassee to see what type of Hold Harmless language they had in their contract. It is my understanding that Mr. Theil has been the county attorney over there for more than 30 years. I figured that if he was O.K. with that language, it wouldn’t be awful for us to look at using it. So, that is why we inserted that our liability will only be whatever liability we would have under 768.28 which is the TORT protection laws. So, we inserted that language in paragraph 8.

Morgan:
So, you are comfortable with it.

Minnis:
Yes.

Morgan:
I move approval, then with that being the case.

Lamb:
Do we have any comment on number 5?

Croley:

Commissioner Taylor brings up a good point about an on-going contract, but if you look at Item 4, Commissioner Taylor - and we may ask Ms. Minnis to give us an explanation, but it does appear that this would simply be a 30 day notice and it is terminated anyway. So, basically, it is something that you don't have to see again, but if you want to get out of it, just sent them a letter and it is over.

Taylor:

I see what you are saying, but you sometimes give a program a span of time to determine its effectiveness. That is why I asked for the three years. Then they can come back and we can do increments of five years. It not only gives protection to insure that we've got a quality program going forward, but it also gives - there may be a different configuration of this body and it would give them an opportunity to address this at some point in time. You don't ever want to say indefinite agreement for this county because of different attitudes and opinions going forward. You saying that it is definite does not make it that you can get them out in 30 days because you also have number 5 that shows the other side that "I am here to stay." So, it is a good argument because you've got the one which kind of contradicts the other, but it doesn't. It just concerns me to see anything indefinite.

Lamb:

What do you want to see different in it.

Taylor:

I just want to put in three years. Come back in three years. After three years, then we will do increments of five. That is all I wanted to say.

Croley:

All I was going to suggest is to save the legal expense and Ms. Minnis, since you are coordinating with a lot of folks, could be maybe satisfy the concern by requesting that there be a report given at the end of 36 months as to how this program is going to satisfy Commissioner Taylor's concern. Then they can come give a report and as Commissioner Taylor is saying, if the results are not what you want, then send a letter and terminate it and move on to something else other than trying to pay the additional legal cost of redoing agreements.

Minnis:

Yes, you can definitely do that.

Taylor:

Then the hold harmless, now here is a legal question for you. I read number 8, but it doesn't outline the board of county commissioners name. We are not mentioned in here. Not only the board of county commissioners, but there are some other entities that we work in correlation with that needs to be protected as well. So, that is just a little broad for me. I know that a lot could happen on an ambulance. You even mentioned a few of them. There is an opportunity that there could be come communicable diseases that these people are exposed to once they get into these ambulances. There is blood there and it exposes the county quite a bit. Allowing this is a good thing and I don't want to get in the way of progress. I just want to make sure that we are

protection along with the students as well as the county.

Lamb:

O.K. What can we do on that on number 8?

Taylor:

That is where my legal abilities are extremely limited. I just want to make sure that all entities are covered in the hold harmless agreement and that is all.

Lamb:

Ms. Minnis, do you understand what she is saying?

Minnis:

Yes, I do.

Lamb:

Is there anything that you need to change in that particular, on that number to -

Minnis:

Well, under this, basically under Number 8, North Florida Community College has basically accepted all the responsibility for its students, employees, instructors, agents and personnel and will pay the cost of litigation and expenses arriving under any situation. The only thing that they would not be responsible for would be one through the wonton and willful conduct, but neither would the county because under 768.28, the counties are protected from the wonton and willful and malicious conduct by any of its employees and agents and officers. So, we cant definitely look at that again, but I think the way it is written does offer all that protection.

Lamb:

Can I get a motion.

Croley:

I move approval of the agreement subject that a report be given at the end of 36 months from the date the contract is executed so that we can determine if we want to continue it.

Lamb:

O.K. you have heard the motion, do we have a second?

Morgan:

Second.

Taylor:

Second.

Lamb:

You have heard the motion. We are ready for questions. It has been seconded by Commissioner Morgan. All in favor, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Lamb:
Opposes?

(no response)

The “Ayes” have it.

Chief Crum, in 36 months, we will look for you. O.K.

Next item.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MORGAN, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT SUBJECT TO A REPORT AT THE END OF THE 36 MONTHS TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN THE FUTURE.

19. Approval to Apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Gadsden County Fire Services Total Grant Request \$260,000 which requires 10% match

Commissioner Morgan raised questions about what funds would be used for budgeting the match.

Chief Crum responded, “The monies have been identified for the fire grant, for the fire side of it, Ms. Sherrilynn has identified those funds already and this year would like to (because it was not put in this year’s budget) we would like to use general fund money if we are awarded this grant.

Morgan:

I certainly understand the importance of this, but I would urge the commission – this is not something that we have budgeted for – I don’t feel comfortable approving that \$51,000 coming out of general fund.

Williams:

If it is awarded, when would the grant money come?

Crum:

It just depends. It could be awarded – the deadline is in two weeks for the application to be submitted. Once the application is submitted, it is a year long process. So, it could award –

Williams:

So, it could easily fall into next budget cycle.

Crum:

It could easily fall into the next budget cycle. Absolutely. But, it could be the first one awarded. But, it could be the last one awarded.

Croley:

Commissioner Morgan, your concern is a very valid one, but you are saving a great deal of public money if we are successful in getting the grant because then you would save all of that money for this equipment. You may be advancing some money up front for something, but you would be getting almost ten fold return on that investment. That would be a very wise move and very prudent use of the tax dollars from what I see here. So, that is why I am saying that I think we ought to approve it. Let him apply. We could always, if we have to, you know, we could turn it down. But, right now, I don't think you have to put out any money, just send in this paperwork.

So, Mr. Chair, I think it would be the prudent thing for us to do to at least let him apply.

Lamb:

Any other questions?

Morgan:

Yes, Mr. Chair. I appreciate and thank you for your response, Commissioner Croley. I agree absolutely, wholeheartedly as far as the return on the money. It is very good for a needed cause as I stated earlier. My question was – in the agenda item itself, is this grant – when did this come about as far as when we were going to apply for this? Were we aware of this? Is this a brand new grant?

Crum:

We were not aware of the opening date. They open every year, but we don't know when they are going to open. This one opened at the beginning of March, the beginning of May, I am sorry.

Morgan:

Every year, though, does this grant come about and are we aware of it?

Crum:

Yes.

Morgan:

I guess my concern with it is why don't we properly budget for these potential items? That is all I am asking. Anyway, that was my point.

Lamb:

Next time they will, hopefully.

O.K. We are ready to vote.

Are there any other questions?

Taylor:

Just a comment, question, rather. I am kind of leaning toward the side of Commissioner Morgan in trying to stay within our budget after the report given to us by the Clerk. I am leaning toward that way. But, then Commissioner Morgan made a very, Commissioner Croley, made a very noteworthy point. To apply and then kind of figure things out later. The only problem with that is that if we are not able to do it, then we would have hindered someone else, some other county from getting these dollars that might have been able to receive the award. So, I am in a quagmire. But, here is a question that is a defining moment for me. Can we use general funds for a match? I know some of these grants require restriction to certain funds to be used. It is kind of like a supplement – an area where you can't use certain dollars to match because of where these dollars may come from. So, that is my question. Can general fund dollars be used as a match? Now, you all have that researched.

Lamb:

I believe we will let the Clerk answer that question.

Thomas:

I have not read the specific grant, but generally, you can use general funds to provide matches for grants.

Taylor:

O.K. That is it.

Lamb:

O.K. Let's carry this motion. All in favor of the motion, let it be known by saying, "Aye."

All:

Aye.

Lamb:

Make that unanimous.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY CHAIR LAMB, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0 TO APPROVE THE EMS APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT DESCRIBED ABOVE.

20. Approval to Apply for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for Gadsden County EMS – 1 set of tools and 1 new ambulance - \$159,000 with match requirement of \$15,990.00

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATION DESCRIBED ABOVE.

Attorney Expenditures Revisited:

Clerk Thomas:

Mr. Chairman, if it is alright, I would like to go back and answer Commissioner Morgan's question about the attorney expenditures.

This is minus any hospital expenditures. We gave GHI money from the half cent sales tax that covers a lot of the hospital expenses. So, but from the general fund, you budgeted \$234,000. To date, you have spent \$88,646.00 dollars. So far, you have spent a lot less than you did at about the same time last year.

Morgan:

I believe we were averaging about \$550,000 in total legal fees. If I heard you correctly, Clerk Thomas, it was \$88,000 that we have spent?

Thomas:

So far this fiscal year.

Morgan:

So far this fiscal year.

Thomas:

Minus the hospital related expenses.

Croley:

I hope the news media gets that down.

Morgan:

I appreciate that. Thanks for getting that update to whoever provided that. I certainly appreciate it.

Lamb:

Thank you, Mr. Thomas and again, again, you see the improvement in this county. You see this county moving forward financially and in all areas. Please take that back into your communities, too, and see how we are moving forward. We are going to continue to move forward as long as we spend the taxpayers money wisely and discuss together and be able to come to conclusions. WE rely on our Clerk to keep us on task. I want to thank the Clerk for doing such a good job. I want to thank the administration for getting along and cooperating with the Clerk's office. That is what it is going to take to move this county forward. We are moving forward at a good pace and carefully.

Thank you.

21 Approval of Bid Award of 10-10 for Supply of Asphalt Coated Culvert pipe to Gulf Atlantic Culvert Co. Inc.

UPON MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CROLEY AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, THE BOARD VOTED 4 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, TO APPROVE OPTION 1 - THE BID AWARD TO GULF

ATLANTIC.

22. Approval of Change Order Number 1 to Dupont Road Resurfacing Contract with Peavy and Son Construction Co. Inc. – reducing the price from \$693,701.00 to \$314,928.00; Also increase to Dodger Ball Park Road by increasing the cost by \$36,000.00

Williams:

We have identified a problem at Dodger Ball Park Road. Approximately 2,000ft. very rough at the end from the Ball Park side. Robert and I have talked about this and Robert has suggested that we just make it a change order to the Peavy Contract on Dupont Road, which would be the quickest and easiest way to do this. It is approximately \$32,000, I believe. \$36,000.

Taylor:

Mr. Chair.

Lamb:

Yes.

Taylor:

Did you recognize me?

Lamb:

Yes, Commissioner Taylor.

Taylor:

From reading this narrative, the change order, you are decreasing the contract that we have with Peavy & Son by a little more than \$300,000. Am I correct?

Presnell:

If you remember, we had a grant to do that Dupont Road job. The bids came in higher than the grant. The board awarded the bid to the lowest bidder and we went back and negotiated out certain segments of the projects to get it to the grant amount.

Taylor:

So, there is a savings, in essence, of a little more than \$300,000?

Presnell:

On paper. Those are not real dollars. It was a grant for that amount. We negotiated Peavy down to the grant amount.

Taylor:

So, it was a grant.

Presnell:

Correct.

Taylor:

And, so, now the grant dollars can be approved to take care of Dodger Park Road?

Presnell:

No, Ma'am. The grant dollars are all going to be spent on Dupont Road. The change order was to – You awarded the bid to Peavy. He was the low bidder, but he was way high. We went back and took out the guard rails, ditch work, slope work and negotiated him down to the exact penny we had on the grant. It basically covers the mixing and the paving. The \$36,000 will come out of contingency. That is real county dollars. Dupont is grant money.

Taylor:

Then, why are the two here together?

Presnell:

To expedite the process and -

Taylor:

So, you are giving it to Peavy to do?

Presnell:

We had a bid that is two weeks old with Peavy at a very good price. So, yeah, we didn't feel like it was prudent to pay the engineers and do a bid immediately one month after we just did a bid.

Taylor:

I am just trying to get to the cusp of it. I don't have any problem with it. I can understand why it is being done and I don't have any problem with this. To be very honest with you and my board members, I was trying to see if I could get a road taken care of as well. That is my only reason for the line of questions because I am interested in Talquin Avenue – to see if I could sneak Talquin in there. So, I understand why it is being done. I just wanted to hear it. So, you are saying if we go ahead on and capitalize on the Peavy and Son bid here, that we can get this road done at a much reduced cost.

Presnell:

\$65.00 per ton and we didn't spend anything on engineering services. That is correct.

Taylor:

So, Dodger Ball Park is bringing brought up for reasons why?

Presnell:

Just a segment of it. A segment of it has some base issues. It is cracking and popping up.

Taylor:

Are there a lot of people on that road? Are there a lot of residents on that road?

Presnell:

I wouldn't say a lot. It is rural highway.

Croley:

It is a connector road though, isn't it?

Presnell:

Yeah. A lot of trucks use it. But, as far as residents, there may be 20 or something. But, like you say, it is a connector road.

Taylor:

Is it an active road?

Presnell:

Yes.

Taylor:

Like I said, I have no problem with that. And, I will say it again.

Croley:

Can we move a motion?

Taylor:

Hold on just a second, I still have the floor. You are not going to get any argument or push back from me. I just wanted to be able to have a little dialogue with this.

As you said, you are capitalizing because they are here and you are not having to have an engineer firm involved.

Presnell:

Correct. The only reason that I recommended that to the administrator was because we had such a recent bid. If you all were ready to approve a road tonight, I would have to recommend to him the exact same thing as long as that bid is pretty new. To be honest with you, that is a very good price.

Taylor:

Again, what do I do, Mr. Chairman. **MOTION TO APPROVE.** This is for you. **MOTION TO APPROVE.**

Croley:

SECOND.

Lamb:

It has been moved and properly seconded that we approve the Change Order Number 1 to Dupont Road Resurfacing Contract with Peavy and Son Construction Co. Inc. – reducing the price from \$693,701.00 to \$314,928.00 and to increase it to include Dodger Ball Park Road repairs by increasing the cost by \$36,000.00. Do we have any questions. Ready to vote. All in favor of the motion, signify by saying "Aye."

All:
Aye.

Lamb:
The “Ayes” have it.

Taylor:
Here is a question that I want to ask the administrator and Robert as well. This \$32,000 comes from somewhere. This \$36,000 comes from somewhere. My question is – is there still some dollars from that somewhere?

Presnell:
We have a contingency in Public Works.

Taylor:
What is the total there now o the best of your recollection?

Presnell:
A little over \$100,000.

Taylor:
Thank you. That is all I have.

23. Update on Board Requests – County Administrator

Taylor:
I have a question about signage on Strong Road. Have we got those signs coming along?

Williams:
Jill has been working on that project. I don’t see any reason why we can’t go ahead with it if Jill and Robert will get together on that.

Jill, do you want to say something on that? I see you coming forward.

Jeglie:
The question would be – Will the applicant pay for that signage? When this particular project went forward to you all, the Planning Department’s recommendation was that they come to Public Works and provide a crosswalk and signage and possibly slow the speed in that area. That recommendation that was in the staff report was not followed through with, so there was not a requirement to do so. There was a variance approved to not require sidewalks along Strong Road and a recommendation had been made to have the sidewalk across Strong Road and place a crosswalk. At that meeting the variance was approved not to require a crosswalk and/or any

additional signage. So, at this point, we are very concerned. Commissioner Taylor had raised the question regarding signage. I sent a Code Enforcement Officer out there to see if they had proceeded and not requested any signage. There was not and they are crossing children across that road contrary to what you may have read in the paper recently. Children are crossing across Strong Road without a crosswalk, without crossing guards and without any additional signage. So, it was brought to my attention at the end of last week. That was contrary to the testimony provided at those meetings.

Taylor:

Here is where I am going with it. I just simply think that we need to get on top of it because of what it is, which is a school, and the fact that there are children. You know, I just think that we need to get on top of that. Whomever needs to erect these signs needs to do it as soon as possible before there is an incident that we cannot get back. I don't want to go back and forth with who's what and what has been happening, but that the signs are being put up. Hopefully, as soon as possible.

Jeglie:

We can, we will contact Ms. Forehand and ask her to cease the activity of crossing the students there and we can also bring something back to the Planning Commission and the board for they would require her to provide as far as crosswalks, sidewalks, etc. if she wants to continue that activity.

Taylor:

I think there just really needs to be some dialogue that needs to go forth. I am understanding why they are going back because the ground that they are using for recreational activities. I just think that whatever they can do and you can do to expedite it is the only thing right now as opposed to trying to spill this thing out. The sooner it gets done the better.

Jeglie:

I think they definitely need to cease that activity that is going on right now.

Lamb:

Right. Come dialogue needs to be going on. Whoever is responsible for doing it needs to do it. I hope we don't have any more variances come to us concerning that or waivers coming to us concerning it. Variances or waivers. They need to do what they need to do in order to protect those young people out there at that school. There are some things that they have not done that they need to do. I personally thought that they should have put sidewalks out there, but I did not prevail in my vote on that. Now, you see that they need sidewalks. Now, they don't even have signage out there. They don't have a guard out there, but that is their responsibility. They need to do something themselves. Hopefully, they won't come back here asking for a variance or a waiver.

Jeglie:

We can make sure that no further COs are granted until they have rectified that situation.

Lamb:

Exactly. Thank you.

Taylor:

Let me say this. You don't want to halt the development out there. That is not what I am asking for. What I am asking for shouldn't take any more than a week to put up the signs, to do and identify a crossing walk. That shouldn't take long. You don't want to tie their arms up either. They will come here and we don't want them here. We want to work with them. That is the whole idea of having that Planning Department now being customer friendly instead of tying their hands and arms. They are doing a great job out there and you don't want to stop them. I don't want to see all the parents and all those up here. I have seen them gather before when they are in opposition to something. You don't want to see that happen. Just give them an opportunity with dialogue and get it up as soon as possible. You don't want to just stop them. I hear what you are saying.

Jeglie:

No, I am not saying to stop. I am saying that we would not issue any final approvals. They can continue with their construction. They will not be complete in their construction within a week. I agree that they should be able to contact their engineer and/or Mr. Presnell about what is required regarding signs and get it done. They should be able to do that.

Taylor:

Thank you. That is it.

Lamb:

Anything else directed to the administrator?

(no response)

Madam Attorney?

Minnis:

I have no items at this time.

Taylor:

For the attorney, I am sorry, and this is really quick.

Lamb:

Do you want to wait until we get to you then?

Taylor:

No, because I see one of the gentlemen here and it is an attorney question. Real quick. Real quick.

With regards to Mr. Long, he had requested several documents from you on clearance. Are you familiar?

Minnis:

I am not sure what clearance he is talking about. We have given him a response to his request. He had indicated that we have not given him a response, but we did give him a written response. He mentioned something about that we were obligated to give him surveys and that the prior attorney had obligated to give him surveys. But, I could not find any indication that we were obligated to give him that.

Taylor:

Well, I see that he is here. Will you have an opportunity to speak with him?

Minnis:

Sure.

Taylor:

Thanks, that is it. That is it.

24. Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Morgan , District 3

Morgan:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a couple of quick items.

First, I wanted to take just a second to thank the Clerk, again, for being with us this morning. I know our hospital board chairman, Mr. McMillan, is also here. We appreciate them taking an interest in coming and communicating with us. I think that a lot of things that we heard this morning show that there have really been some policies put into place and some good things are being accomplished here, particularly during this past 12 months. I know we talked a long time about the hospital and the fact that we are seeing that as a reality, but that is because there were some really good decisions made and we, in my opinion, approached it the right way. I want to thank the board, as a whole, because that is a major accomplishment.

Budget

I do want to make a remark about the budget. We are simply half way through this fiscal year. We have done a really good job, in my opinion, because of how this board has responded to different items. The Clerk mentioned that we are improving dramatically in our finances, but we still have half the year to go. I think it is critical that we maintain focus on these expenditures and prioritizing these expenditures.

Projected Revenue Shortfall fromr Ad Valorem Taxes

We got a email from, all the board I am sure got an email, from the Property Appraiser that confirms his projections on revenues for the next two years and they are going to be down. That is just one area that we are going to see a drop in revenues. I think it is really important to keep up the good work that we've done so far.

Appreciation to County Administrator's Staff

Mr. Administrator, to your staff, I would like to really say how much I appreciate – I know I went through you on several different projects that involved (in the recent 10 days or so since we last met) and it involved Mr. Lawson's office, it involved Betty Sprenkle, Charles Chapman and they just really did a great job responding and getting information to me. I am very appreciative of the effort that they put in. In my opinion, it was beyond their normal routine activities. They were just some last minute things that I requested.

Williams:

Thank you. I wish I had about a dozen more like them.

Morgan:

They do a great job and I appreciate that.

The other thing that I wanted to mention real quickly. Again, I see Mr. Southerland is here and is filming our meeting. To you, I say thank you because that is at no charge to the county and we appreciate the opportunity for you to communicate what is going on up here with the citizens of Gadsden County. So, thank you for that.

Responders to Bus Crash

Then, last, but certainly not least, we had a recognition program over in Chattahoochee this past Sunday at El Bethel Church and it recognized very special young men, five of them, who where among the first responders at the March 8th bus crash. I know that the chairman is aware of that and I think maybe the entire board is, but these young men – I hope that we will take a moment out and just call and say, "Thank you" to them.

I appreciate it.

District 4 Commission Seat is vacant as of this date.

Commissioner Taylor, District 5

Status of Audit Report FY 2009

Taylor:

Here is a request and I am hoping that you all will concur. The auditors that we now have on contract, they are still on contract. When does that contract expire? That is a question real quick. Does anyone know?

Thomas:

I assume after they present the final audit to you.

Williams:

Yes.

Taylor:

Well, I was hoping that we could get a representative in here sometime soon and give us a

timeline as to when we will be able to get what. Right now, we don't know and we are operating in the dark. Either a letter from them or something from them letting us know when we can expect the report.

Lamb:

O.K. Mr. Lawson or Mr. Clerk, can you all get in contact with them?

Thomas:

I will give them a call.

Taylor:

Can we have that information or a representative at our next meeting? If that is at all possible, I will appreciate that. So, it will help us in formulating this contract as well so that we can see what obstacles they have had. In going forward, we can avoid some of the same mistakes. So, please, please, please try and get that information.

Road Naming Procedure

We did the naming of a new road. I would like to know the process of the renaming of a road. I have had some folk call me on one particular road. They want to rename it.

Williams:

It is the same procedure. 911 has to look at it and then they have to bring that recommendation to the board.

Taylor:

Will the citizens on that road be polled?

Williams:

I would recommend that. I certainly would.

Taylor:

All right. Then, I will get with you. If you have staff or whomever you want to designate to call me so that we can get that started. They made their request over two months ago.

Lamb:

911 is the Sheriff's office, isn't it?

Williams:

Yes, that is Emergency Management.

Taylor:

Well, whomever. I don't know the process and that is why I am making inquiries now. Whomever needs to get in contact with me.

Croley:

That would be Mr. Devane Mason.

Taylor:

Mr. Administrator, would you initiate that for me, if that is o.k.?

Williams:

Which road is that, Ma'am, may I ask?

Taylor:

I would rather talk to you privately about that. I would not want to publicly (inaudible) Cause I have only talked to a few of them. I wanted to get some legwork done before I put it out there.

We talked this morning, and I might say, Mr. Chair, we are moving very well. This is the first meeting that I am going to get out of here before twelve o'clock and I am very excited about that. We talked about the attorney's contract, but I have not heard anything about the county administrator's contract. That should also be expired or up for renewal. I certainly – I know we brought on the county administrator before we did the attorney, so, we need to look at renewal of his contract, then do an evaluation for his performance. I am sure that is something that is customarily done. Am I correct?

Lamb:

We will get with Mr. Lawson on it.

Taylor:

O.K. Thank you.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

I need to know the names of the committee members that is on the housing program. I know the one that presented, but I want - there was a concern about whether all these people are active. Mr. Administrator, I need to know the names of these people and to make sure that this board is activated.

Appreciation Resolutions Regarding Hospital Efforts

When I was walking in this morning, I had two to jump on me to make sure that I did not pull that resolution for approval – It was funny. The administrator did talk to me about what they were trying to get done and indicated some very good information, which is why I didn't bother anything on that consent agenda. But, the resolutions should be number through 2010-027. We went up through 026. 027 – that is just me, and I am sorry, but I think there should be a resolution for this board for the four or five of us that worked. There should be a resolution. I looked through everyone of them and no one made any mention of this board. I know I went through some heart ache. I have been lied on, pulled, jerked every which a way you can go about that hospital. But, through it all, we persevered and I think this board should be recognized for the tenacity that we have gone through and that if 201-027 that I think we need to add in and not stop with 026.

Talquin Ave.

Last and final thing. Mr. Presnell, I guess I am always working and I appreciate you. I appreciate you and the job you have to do out there. You have a tremendous task. I appreciate you and your group and the things you have done. That \$100,000 you mentioned a minute ago in your contingency fund. I am going to ask, you know this is just how I do it, I don't come up here with surprises – I don't even call that much in the intervals. I certainly don't bother, but I am going to ask that you do look at Talquin Ave. If you don't mind, Mr. Administrator, and if you all don't mind, take a look at that. We started paving it. We started on the south. We started on the north, and when we got to the middle, we stopped. It is dirt.

Lamb:
We who?

Taylor:
The county. It is a public road.

Williams:
Yes, I have ridden.

Taylor:
You started it. A brand new road on both sides and stopped right there in the middle. There, you've got dirt.

Williams:
Yes, you've got dirt in the middle.

Taylor:
I still don't understand why it was abated at that time. (inaudible) I doubt it would cost more than \$15,000 - \$20,000 to finish that little piece.

Presnell:
When we paved that road, Talquin Ave, it was about six years ago, we had a land owner there who would not give any right-of-way and there were storm water issues with DEP – it is really close to the lake there. There was a cross drain that went directly into the lake. So, the board at that time chose to skip that part because we have a policy of not buying right-of-way. That is the reason that it was left.

Williams:
Is he still there, Robert?

Presnell:
He is dead.

Taylor:

He is dead and gone.

Lamb:

As she said before, go back and look at it and see what it would take.

Presnell:

We will talk to the new owners and see if they will be willing to give the right-of-way. The right-of-way is the secret to that whole project.

Williams:

And get us a cost estimate.

Presnell:

Yeah, we will work up the price.

Comp Plan

Taylor:

And the Comp Plan. That is not you, Robert. That is the County Administrator. I don't know if you all are ready. I understand that you are getting ready to bring in a new director over there. I don't know if you are ready for a Comp Plan, but we need to keep that in the forefront. If we don't start the future, this is set by the four of us. If we don't start and stay focused for new development, there won't be any. So, we need to be proactive about where this county needs to go and start looking for those dollars. They are going to get scarce. They are few and far between. Now, while there is still some stimulus dollars out there and available, we need to talk about infrastructure going into areas and prevent this urban sprawl, this cluster that is going to happen if we don't build waterlines on out into other areas.

So, please, Mr. Administrator, the Comp Plan needs to be discussed. We need to schedule it. We need to do that.

Williams:

Do you want a special meeting?

Taylor:

Schedule a meeting.

Williams:

That would be up to the board, I would say.

Taylor:

Well, here is what I am going to ask of you because the board is probably looking to see if we are prepared for this discussion. We need to already have some material in place in order to have an intelligent discussion. Some resources need to be provided to us in order to discuss this intelligently and then see some progression as opposed to us sitting up here just trying to come up with some ideas and not have any plan in front of us that steer us into some direction, I guess.

Lamb:

So, what you do, Mr. Administrator is get with your Growth Management Department and see if you all can come up with some materials for us to discuss. Then bring that back to us and we will make a decision here as to whether we want to have a special meeting about it. I agree. We will have to make that decision here.

Commissioner Croley?

Commissioner Croley, District 2

County Property – Formerly Fountain Property – US 27 North Purchased through FEMA Funds

Croley:

Briefly, Mr. Chair. I want to raise something. This is not getting into District 1's business, but it is an observation that I made this week. I saw heavy equipment on that piece of property that we call the Fountain Property (on US 27 that was accepted by the Board) this week parked on the property. I wanted to make you aware of that and also the county administrator because what security has been made to secure this property and who has responsibility for it now?

Lamb:

Is it our equipment? It might not be our equipment.

Croley:

I know, but it is on our property now and that is one of my concerns. Who is overseeing the property.

Williams:

I was not aware that there was equipment on it.

Croley:

But, who has responsibility by law to secure the property?

Williams:

By law, I am responsible and am the custodian of all county property.

Croley:

Yes, sir. Well, I am making you aware that you need to go look at what is going on on your property.

Williams:

Thank you.

Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency Meeting

Croley:

The other matter, Mr. Chair, is that I want to report to you that Capital Regional Transportation Planning Agency met yesterday at Tallahassee City Hall at 1:00 p.m. I wanted to let you know

that while there was obviously a lengthy agenda, one of the things that we were able to secure for Gadsden County and the other rural counties – And, Mr. Presnell may be interested in knowing this – and that is they gave unanimous support for a communication to be sent to the US Department of Transportation seeking support or a expansion of their programs to help you with the rural collector roads – the roads around in this county that have been deemed a foot too narrow to meet their funding requirements. Mr. Brian Paulk, with DOT, was present and they are helping to draft this up, but you got unanimous four county support for that. So, hopefully, Gadsden County will see some financial benefits along with some of the other rural counties in this area. So, again, that is a very good thing for Gadsden County in working together regionally as you have talked about, Mr. Chair, on many occasions. We are getting support from all around the area for the progress that is being made here.

Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Lamb – District 1, Chairman

Lamb:

I don't have anything particularly to say except, Commissioners, thank you for moving forward in this county. We've made a lot of progress here and all we have to do is to continue to work together with the administrator and the attorney firm and we can just go forward.

Don't forget. If there is anything that you need to call the administrator about to alert him on before we get to the meeting, it would really help. If you see a tractor or something parked somewhere, you can just tell him and tell him to take care of it before we get here. But, if there is something that you just can't hold, bring it on here and we will talk about it.

Do you have something?

Craig McMillan:
If you don't mind.

Lamb:
That is good. You go ahead. You are taking my time, now.

McMillan:
Well, I am sorry.

Lamb:
That's o.k. (Laughter)

McMillan:
I know you want to leave, too.

Hospital Update on Staffing

I get got an email, a copy of an email from Capital Regional Medical Center that I thought you would like to hear. It is just following up on other things that we have been saying all along. It is from Dale Nealy, who is the CFO for Capital Regional. He says, "We are in the process of hiring approximately 45-50 new employees to work at Capital Regional Medical Center Gadsden Memorial Campus." That is confirming what an industry this is that is being brought to Gadsden County.

Lamb:

That is improvement and advancement for Gadsden County. That is what your Board of County Commissioners are working with the Hospital Board to try to do. That is improvement, people. Ladies and gentlemen, that is improvement. Please, go back and tell them that. That is what we are doing here. Just moving forward.

Commissioner Morgan, did you want a second of my time?

Morgan:

Less than 30 seconds of your time as I know that you are hungry just like I am.

One name that I failed to mention, Mr. Administrator, when I was giving accolades earlier. You know, we have got Ms. Jill Jeglie who has stepping in and performing a lot of tasks as our interim Growth Management Director. I have heard many, many, many compliments on how she has handled this. I am sure that you would agree that she has done a great job and I want to add her name to that.

Secondly, if you could make the public aware of our public meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m., I think that would be appropriate as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Hospital Ribbon Cutting

Lamb:

Don't forget on June 8th, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony down at the hospital at 10:00 a.m. Please tell everyone to come out and support this effort.

Morgan:

Mr. Chair, I am sorry to interrupt. Were you going to give the details of that meeting this evening – where it is and the time and that sort of thing and what it is about?

Williams:

For the public - It is at 6:00 p.m. this evening on the third floor of the Holiday Inn Express at the Quincy Interchange.

Morgan:

I think it is actually an open meeting in the conference room, is it not?

Lamb:
It is an open meeting.

Williams:
The open meeting is going to be where?

Morgan:
I believe in the conference room on the first floor.

Williams:
First floor. O.K. The meeting rooms are on the third floor and the conference room is on the first floor. I got you.

Lamb:
Just tell them to come to the meeting room.

This meeting is adjourned.

Receipt and File Agenda

- 25a Policy of Title Insurance – Larry Fountain Property
- 25b Office Ally Enrollment - Gadsden Urgent Care - Software for CMS
- 25c Grant Adjustment Notice – Recover Act Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program 2010-ARRC-GADS-5-W7-203 Adjustment No. 1
- 25d Resignation of Commissioner Brenda A. Holt – Due to retirement from DROP
- 25e OMB BA# 100080, 100082, 100083
- 25f Proposal to the FY 10 US EPA Brownfields Program for a community wide assessment grant application

ADJOURNMENT

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 11:30 A.M.**

Eugene Lamb, Chair

ATTEST:

Muriel Straughn, Deputy Clerk